



# AG UPDATE

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### Contents of This Issue

- ▶Cattle Inventory
- ▶Cattle on Feed
- ▶Sheep Inventory
- ▶Livestock Slaughter
- ▶Agricultural Prices
- ▶Chicken and Eggs
- ▶Cold Storage

## CATTLE INVENTORY JULY 1, 2008

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2008, totaled 104.3 million head, slightly below the 104.8 million on July 1, 2007 and down 1 percent from the 105.2 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.4 million, was down slightly from both July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2006. Beef cows, at 33.2 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2007 and 1 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.25 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2007 and 1 percent above two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2008 and the changes from July 1, 2007, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, down 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.6 million, down 2 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.9 million, unchanged.
- Other heifers, 8.0 million, unchanged.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.7 million, down 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 28.6 million, down slightly.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.7 million, down 5 percent.

The 2008 calf crop is expected to be 37.3 million, down slightly from 2007 and 1 percent below 2006. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.1 million, down slightly from 2007 and 1 percent below 2006.

### Cattle and Calves United States, July 1, 2006-2008

| Class                           | 2006    | 2007       | 2008    |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------|---------|
|                                 |         | 1,000 Head |         |
| All Cattle and Calves .....     | 105,200 | 104,800    | 104,300 |
| All Cows .....                  | 42,600  | 42,500     | 42,400  |
| Beef Cows.....                  | 33,450  | 33,350     | 33,150  |
| Milk Cows .....                 | 9,150   | 9,150      | 9,250   |
| Heifers 500 lbs. and Over ..... | 16,600  | 16,600     | 16,500  |
| Beef Cow Replacement.....       | 5,000   | 4,700      | 4,600   |
| Milk Cow Replacement .....      | 3,800   | 3,900      | 3,900   |
| Other Heifers.....              | 7,800   | 8,000      | 8,000   |
| Steers 500 lbs. and Over .....  | 15,000  | 14,900     | 14,700  |
| Bulls 500 lbs. and Over.....    | 2,100   | 2,100      | 2,100   |
| Calves Under 500 lbs.....       | 28,900  | 28,700     | 28,600  |
| Calf Crop <sup>1/</sup> .....   | 37,519  | 37,361     | 37,250  |

<sup>1/</sup> For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

## CATTLE ON FEED JULY 1, 2008

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 820,000 head as of July 1, 2008. The latest inventory was down 11 percent from June 1, 2008, and down 13 percent from the 940,000 on feed on July 1, 2007. The inventory included 485,000 steers and steer calves, down 18 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 330,000 head, was down 4 percent from the previous year. The number of cows and bulls totaled 5,000, and remained unchanged from last year. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 170,000 head of fed cattle during June 2008. This remained unchanged from May 2008 marketings of 170,000 head and 11 percent below a year ago. An estimated 80,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during June, 33 percent below a year ago and 47 percent below May 2008 placements. Of the number placed in June, 25 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 13 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 31 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 31 percent weighed 800 pounds or greater. Other disappearance during June 2008, at 10,000 head, remained unchanged from a year earlier.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.3 million head on July 1, 2008. The inventory was 4 percent below July 1, 2007 and 5 percent below July 1, 2006. The inventory included 6.43 million steers and steer

calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.82 million head, down 3 percent from 2007. Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.51 million, 9 percent below 2007 and 22 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.45 million head. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 365,000, 600-699 pounds were 325,000, 700-799 pounds were 383,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 440,000. Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 1.97 million, 8 percent below 2007 and 10 percent below 2006. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of June since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during June, 15 percent above 2007, but 5 percent below 2006.

Cattle on feed July 1, 2008, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 11.7 million, down 5 percent from the 12.3 million on July 1, 2007 and down 6 percent from July 1, 2006. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 88 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2008, up 1 percent from July 1, 2007.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, June 1 to July 1, 2007-2008**

| Item                     | Colorado   |      | United States |        |
|--------------------------|------------|------|---------------|--------|
|                          | 2007       | 2008 | 2007          | 2008   |
|                          | 1,000 head |      |               |        |
| On Feed June 1           | 1,020      | 920  | 11,272        | 10,815 |
| Placements During June   | 120        | 80   | 1,657         | 1,513  |
| < 600 pounds             | 15         | 20   | 405           | 365    |
| 600 - 699 Pounds         | 20         | 10   | 325           | 325    |
| 700 - 799 Pounds         | 35         | 25   | 457           | 383    |
| 800 Plus Pounds          | 50         | 25   | 470           | 440    |
| Marketing's During June  | 190        | 170  | 2,140         | 1,973  |
| Other Disap. During June | 10         | 10   | 52            | 60     |
| On Feed July 1           | 940        | 820  | 10,737        | 10,295 |
| Steers & Steer Calves    | 590        | 485  | 6,742         | 6,432  |
| Heifers & Heifer Calves  | 345        | 330  | 3,928         | 3,823  |
| Cows & Bulls             | 5          | 5    | 67            | 40     |

**SHEEP INVENTORY  
JULY 1, 2008**

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on July 1, 2008 totaled 7.35 million head, down 3 percent from July 1, 2007, and 5 percent below July 1, 2006. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.42 million head on July 1, 2008 was down 3 percent from July 1, 2007. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 2.93 million head, were down 4 percent from last July. The breeding herd consists of 3.62 million ewes one year old and older, 180,000 rams one year old and older, and 620,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 2.86 million head was comprised of 1.67 million lambs under 65 pounds, 595,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 340,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 250,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 75,000 head.

The 2008 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 3.97 million head, down 2 percent from the 2007 lamb crop of 4.05 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2008 totaled 3.48 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 490,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2008.

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
JUNE 2008**

Red meat production in **Colorado** during June 2008 totaled 196.1 million pounds, 14 percent above the 172.4 million pounds produced during June 2007. Cattle kill was up 12 percent from the previous year to 236,000 head and the average live weight increased 32 pounds to 1,283 pounds per head. Hog slaughter remained the same from the previous year, at 600 head, and the average live weight was up 4 pounds to 256. Accumulated production for the first six months of this year now totals 1,085.9 million pounds, 21 percent above the 901.5 billion pounds produced during the comparable period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.05 billion pounds in June, up 1 percent from the 4.03 billion pounds produced in June 2007. Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, down 4 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,261 pounds. Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 5 percent above June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 75,400 head, up 23 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was down 41 pounds from last year, at 266 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.88 million head, up 7 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 266 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 13.1 million pounds, was down 4 percent from June 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 192,400 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, unchanged from June a year ago.

January to June 2008 commercial red meat production was 25.0 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 10 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

**Red Meat Production - Colorado and United States**

| Area and Species           | June 2007      | May 2008 | June 2008 | January-June |          |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
|                            |                |          |           | 2007         | 2008     |
|                            | Million Pounds |          |           |              |          |
| <b>Colorado</b> .....      | 172.4          | 197.3    | 196.1     | 901.5        | 1,085.9  |
| <b>United States</b> ..... | 4,027.5        | 4,222.3  | 4,049.6   | 23,578.3     | 25,043.0 |
| Beef.....                  | 2,348.5        | 2,380.2  | 2,262.6   | 12,885.5     | 13,268.6 |
| Veal.....                  | 11.2           | 11.5     | 11.7      | 75.3         | 68.7     |
| Pork.....                  | 1,654.1        | 1,815.6  | 1,762.1   | 10,524.1     | 11,616.4 |
| Lamb&Mutton .....          | 13.7           | 15.0     | 13.1      | 93.3         | 89.3     |

# AGRICULTURAL PRICES

**JULY 31, 2008**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July, at 161 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (1.9 percent) from June. The Crop Index is up 3 points (1.6 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received higher prices for cattle, soybeans, broilers, and sweet corn, and lower prices for eggs, wheat, tomatoes, and cucumbers. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of wheat, grapes, hay, and tomatoes, offset decreased marketings of milk, cantaloups, potatoes, and apples.

The July All Farm Products Index is 161 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 1.9 percent from the June index and 16 percent above the July 2007 index. The July all wheat price, at \$7.29 per bushel, is down 33 cents from June but \$2.12 above July 2007. The corn price, at \$5.61 per bushel, is up 13 cents from last month and \$2.29 above July 2007. The all hay price, at \$164 per ton, is up \$3.00 from June and up \$33.00 from last July. The soybean price, at \$14.20 per bushel, increased \$1.00 from June and is \$6.64 above July 2007.

The July Livestock and Product Index, at 138, is 0.7 percent above last month and up 0.7 percent from July 2007. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, broilers, turkeys, and hogs. Prices for milk, eggs, and calves are down from last year. The July hog price, at \$52.50 per cwt, is down 80 cents from June but 30 cents higher than a year ago. The July beef cattle price of \$95.70 per cwt is up \$3.70 from last month and \$6.70 higher than July 2007. The July all milk price of \$19.40 per cwt is up 10 cents from last month but down \$2.20 from July 2007.

## Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

| Index<br>1990-92 = 100    | 2007           |      | 2008 |      |
|---------------------------|----------------|------|------|------|
|                           | June           | July | June | July |
|                           | <b>Percent</b> |      |      |      |
| Prices Received .....     | 137            | 139  | 158  | 161  |
| Prices Paid .....         | 161            | 162  | 189  | 191  |
| Ratio <sup>1/</sup> ..... | 85             | 86   | 84   | 84   |

<sup>1/</sup> Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Compared with July 2007, all **Colorado** crop prices averaged higher except sheep and milk. All livestock prices were higher except for calves. Mid-July 2008 wheat, at \$7.66 per bushel, increased 3 cents from the previous month and was \$2.66 above July a year ago. Corn prices increased 51 cents from June to \$5.55 per bushel and averaged \$2.07 above July 2007. The mid-July potato price was up 70 cents from last month to \$14.10 per cwt, and was \$6.85 per cwt higher than July a year ago. The dry bean average price, at \$36.50 per cwt, increased \$3.50 from last month and was \$8.00 per cwt higher than July a year ago. Alfalfa hay averaged \$160.00 per ton increasing \$10.00 from June and \$25.00 from July 2007.

Other hay at \$135.00 per ton, increased \$5.00 from last month, but remained unchanged from July a year ago. The mid-July steer and heifer price decreased \$1.00 from last month at \$102.00 per cwt but averaged \$2.00 above the \$100.00 per cwt a year ago. Cow prices were up 20 cents from last month to \$55.80 per cwt and were \$1.60 per cwt higher than July 2007. Calf prices, at \$109.00 per cwt, decreased \$5.00 from last month and \$13.00 lower than the \$122.00 per cwt received a year ago. Milk sold to plants, at \$19.70 per cwt, averaged .90 cents above last month but was \$2.20 below July 2007.

## Average Prices Received By Farmers <sup>1/</sup>

| Item                            | Unit | Colorado  |           |           |
|---------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                 |      | July 2007 | June 2008 | July 2008 |
| <b>Crops</b>                    |      |           |           |           |
| Dollars                         |      |           |           |           |
| Wheat .....                     | Bu.  | 5.00      | 7.63      | 7.66      |
| Corn .....                      | Bu.  | 3.48      | 5.04      | 5.55      |
| Barley (All) .....              | Bu.  | 3.75      | 2/        | 2/        |
| Potatoes .....                  | Cwt  | 7.25      | 13.40     | 14.10     |
| Dry edible beans .....          | Cwt  | 28.50     | 33.00     | 36.50     |
| Alfalfa hay (baled) .....       | Ton  | 135.00    | 150.00    | 160.00    |
| Other hay (baled) .....         | Ton  | 135.00    | 130.00    | 135.00    |
| <b>Livestock &amp; Products</b> |      |           |           |           |
| Beef Cattle .....               | Cwt  | 99.10     | 102.00    | 101.00    |
| Steers & heifers .....          | Cwt  | 100.00    | 103.00    | 102.00    |
| Cows .....                      | Cwt  | 54.20     | 55.60     | 55.80     |
| Calves .....                    | Cwt  | 122.00    | 114.00    | 109.00    |
| Sheep .....                     | Cwt  | 31.00     | 26.00     | 3/        |
| Lambs .....                     | Cwt  | 98.00     | 100.00    | 3/        |
| Milk sold to plants .....       | Cwt  | 21.90     | 18.80     | 19.70     |
| <b>United States</b>            |      |           |           |           |
| Dollars                         |      |           |           |           |
| Wheat .....                     | Bu.  | 5.17      | 7.62      | 7.29      |
| Corn .....                      | Bu.  | 3.32      | 5.48      | 5.61      |
| Soybeans .....                  | Bu.  | 7.56      | 13.20     | 14.20     |
| Barley (All) .....              | Bu.  | 3.46      | 4.75      | 4.61      |
| Barley (Feed) .....             | Bu.  | 3.27      | 5.53      | 4.68      |
| Sorghum .....                   | Cwt  | 5.52      | 10.10     | 9.78      |
| Potatoes .....                  | Cwt  | 8.48      | 10.78     | 11.42     |
| Dry edible beans .....          | Cwt  | 28.50     | 33.00     | 38.20     |
| Alfalfa hay (baled) .....       | Ton  | 137.00    | 172.00    | 177.00    |
| Other hay (baled) .....         | Ton  | 113.00    | 130.00    | 130.00    |
| Onions .....                    | Cwt  | 15.40     | 17.60     | 16.40     |
| <b>Livestock &amp; Products</b> |      |           |           |           |
| Beef Cattle .....               | Cwt  | 89.00     | 92.00     | 95.70     |
| Steers & heifers .....          | Cwt  | 93.00     | 96.40     | 100.00    |
| Cows .....                      | Cwt  | 51.50     | 54.30     | 56.40     |
| Calves .....                    | Cwt  | 126.00    | 118.00    | 115.00    |
| Sheep .....                     | Cwt  | 29.20     | 24.80     | 3/        |
| Lambs .....                     | Cwt  | 98.70     | 102.00    | 3/        |
| Hogs .....                      | Cwt  | 52.20     | 53.30     | 52.50     |
| Milk sold to plants .....       | Cwt  | 21.60     | 19.30     | 19.40     |
| Broilers .....                  | Lb.  | 0.470     | 0.480     | 0.500     |

<sup>1/</sup> Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

<sup>2/</sup> Insufficient sales to establish a price. <sup>3/</sup> Not Published.

## CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION

**JUNE 2008**

Laying flocks in **Colorado** produced 89 million eggs during June 2008, remained unchanged from June 2007. The number of layers averaged 3.72 million during June of this year, no change from June 2007. The June 2008 egg production per 100 layers was 2,234 down 5 percent from 2,362 eggs per 100 layers in June 2007.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.37 billion during June 2008, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.27 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2008 averaged 339 million, down slightly from last year. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up slightly from June 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2008 totaled 337 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 337 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2008, averaged 73.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from July 1, 2007.

## COLD STORAGE

**JUNE 30, 2008**

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on June 30, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, pork, cheese and beef. Butter stocks were down 5 percent from last month and down 6 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 3 percent from the previous month but up 6 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 9 percent from the previous month but up 11 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 14 percent from last month but up 60 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on June 30, 2008 were up 4 percent from the previous month and up 21 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 2 percent from the previous month and up 19 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 8 percent from last month and up 25 percent from June 30, 2007.

## Stocks in Storage, United States

| Commodity                   | June 30, 2007 | May 31, 2008 | June 30, 2008 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                             | 1,000 Pounds  |              |               |
| Butter .....                | 272,975       | 269,474      | 256,087       |
| Cheese, total natural.....  | 891,171       | 881,289      | 905,055       |
| Eggs, frozen .....          | 17,411        | 12,443       | 16,236        |
| Poultry, total frozen ..... | 1,100,147     | 1,279,987    | 1,333,128     |
| Chicken.....                | 643,985       | 755,134      | 768,718       |
| Turkey.....                 | 448,410       | 522,421      | 562,697       |
| Fruits, frozen.....         | 949,567       | 839,793      | 858,112       |
| Fruit Juices, frozen.....   | 1,256,146     | 1,801,403    | 1,856,870     |
| Vegetables, total frozen    | 1,237,075     | 1,344,202    | 1,308,272     |
| Potatoes, total frozen..... | 1,078,208     | 1,074,946    | 1,194,1054    |
| Meats, total red .....      | 8,835,441     | 10,119,136   | 9,907,670     |
| Beef, total frozen.....     | 430,323       | 413,855      | 431,075       |
| Pork, total frozen.....     | 467,949       | 567,339      | 518,913       |

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Food stocks are excluded for places where entire inventories are turned over more than once a month.

## UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Aug. 12 - Crop Production
- Aug. 14 - Turkey Hatchery
- Aug. 18 - Milk Production
- Aug. 22 - Mushrooms
- Aug. 22 - Cattle on Feed
- Aug. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- Aug. 22 - Cold Storage
- Aug. 22 - Livestock Slaughter
- Aug. 29 - Agricultural Prices

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